sequences necessary for expression of PEDF or a therapeutic fragment thereof and wherein the adenoviral vector is lacking all or part of the E1 region and all or part of the E4 region.

4. (Twice Amended) The adenoviral vector of claim 1, wherein the adenoviral vector is lacking all of the E1 region.

5. (Twice Amended) The adenoviral vector of claim 1, wherein the adenoviral vector is lacking all or part of the E1a region and is lacking all or part of the E1b region.

6. (Twice Amended) The adenoviral vector of claim 5, wherein the adenoviral vector is lacking all of the E4 region.

8. (Twice Amended) The adenoviral vector of claim 6, wherein the adenoviral vector is lacking all or part of the E3 region.

9. (Twice Amended) The adenoviral vector of claim 1, wherein the adenoviral vector is lacking all or part of the E2 region.

REMARKS

The Present Invention

The present invention is directed to an adenoviral vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding pigment epithelium-derived factor (PEDF) or a therapeutic fragment thereof, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is operably linked to regulatory sequences necessary for expression of PEDF or a therapeutic fragment thereof and wherein the adenoviral vector is lacking all or part of the E1 region and all or part of the E4 region.

The Pending Claims

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 11-27 are pending. All of the pending claims are directed to the adenoviral vector described above.

The Office Action

The Office has maintained the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 1, 2, 21, and 24-27 as allegedly being obvious in view of the combined disclosures of U.S. Patent 6,288,024 (herein referred to as "the Bouck reference") and U.S. Patent 5,827,702 (herein